



BOROUGH OF BRIDGWATER

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st. DECEMBER, 1961





BOROUGH OF BRIDGWATER

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1961

Chairman;

COUNCILLOR A. E. EVANS

Vice-Chairman;

COUNCILLOR F. PHILLIPS

COUNCILLOR A. J. AYRES

COUNCILLOR W. G. POSKITT

COUNCILLOR MRS. E. M. JAMES

COUNCILLOR MRS. M. E. REES

COUNCILLOR C. W. MILNE

COUNCILLOR C. J. STONE

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1961

Medical Officer of Health;

R. H. WATSON, M. B. , B. Ch. , B. A. O. , D. P. H.

Assistant Medical Officer (Somerset C. C.)

CHRISTINE M. ROOKE, M. B. , B. S.

Chief Public Health Inspector;

R. K. LEAN, F. P. H. I. A.

Additional Public Health Inspectors;

C. W. RICHARDS, A. R. S. H. , M. P. H. I. A.

R. W. L. REED, D. P. A. , M. P. H. I. A.



Health Department,  
Albert Street,  
BRIDGWATER.

Tel: Bridgwater 2689

June, 1962

To:

The Mayor, Alderman and Councillors of the Borough of Bridgwater.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the Borough, and the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1961. The report is set out in the manner of previous years, so that comparison with former reports can easily be made.

The health of the Borough has been good during the year and there have been no major epidemics, although early cases of influenza in the Autumn took their toll of old people and as a result there has been an increase in the death rate for 1961. On the other hand the birth rate continued the rise which has been evident during the past few years.

Water shortage was again an acute problem in the Borough during the year and restrictions on the use of domestic supplies were necessary from early in July until practically the end of the year. However, at the time of writing this report the Hawkridge scheme is not only complete but the reservoir is full and it is therefore to be hoped that the Borough will now have adequate supplies of water for all purposes for many years to come.

Once again I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my grateful appreciation to the Members of the Council for the help and consideration which I have received and for the friendly co-operation extended to me by my fellow officers.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

R. H. WATSON.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS  
GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)	2, 083
Population (census 1961)	25, 582
Population (Registrar General's estimate) 1961	25, 580
No. of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1961	7, 714
Rateable value on 31st December, 1961	£374,867
Sum represented by 1d. rate on 31st December, 1961	£1, 566

Extracts from VITAL STATISTICS for the year 1961

Live Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	248	207	455
Illegitimate	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>25</u>
	<u>258</u>	<u>222</u>	<u>480</u>
Live Birth Rate per 1, 000 population			18.74
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			5.21
Still Births			nil
Still Birth Rate per 1, 000 live and still births			nil
Total live and still births			480
Infant Deaths (deaths of infants under one year of age)			10
Infant Mortality Rate per 1, 000 live births - total			20.83
Infant Mortality Rate per 1, 000 live births-legitimate			17.58
Infant Mortality Rate per 1, 000 live births - illegitimate			80.00
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1, 000 live births)			6.25
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1, 000 total live births)			6.25

Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	6.25
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	nil

### Deaths

Total number of deaths	351
Death Rate per 1,000 population	13.70

### Births

After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar General's figures show that there were 480 births (258 boys and 222 girls) in the Borough during 1961, being 26 births more than in 1960. Of these births 25 were illegitimate. This is 5.2% of the total live births, as compared with 5.5% in 1960.

The birth rate for any area is dependent on the composition of its population, and the Registrar General provides a comparability factor which is used to enable comparison to be made between the vital statistics of different areas. The product of the local birth rate and the comparability factor for the area is used for this purpose. The birth rate for Bridgwater adjusted in this way is 17.80 per 1,000 of the population, which is more or less what would be expected in a prosperous town with a high employment rate.

Birth rates for Bridgwater and for England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Crude Birth Rate	16.05	15.83	17.64	17.74	18.74
Standardised Birth Rate	15.25	15.03	16.76	16.85	17.80
England and Wales	16.1	16.4	16.5	17.1	17.4

### Still Births

This is the first occasion for many years when no still births have been reported.

### Deaths

The number of deaths registered in the Borough during 1961 was 331. Of these 61 were deaths of non-residents and were transferred to the district in which the persons ordinarily resided. There were, on the other hand 81 deaths of Bridgwater residents registered outside the Borough. The total corrected

number of deaths assigned to the Borough was 351 (172 males and 179 females). This was 63 deaths more than in the previous year, and gave a crude death rate of 13.70.

This crude death rate cannot be used to compare the mortality with that of other districts, as the populations of all areas are not similarly constituted as regards age and sex distribution. The Registrar General supplies an "Area Comparability Factor" and the crude death rate multiplied by this figure can be compared with the death rate of the country as a whole, or with the mortality of any other local area. The standardised death rate so obtained was 12.60 per 1,000 of the population and this compared with 12.0 for England and Wales.

Death rates for Bridgwater Borough and England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Crude Death Rate	11.40	12.09	11.82	11.26	13.70
Standardised Death Rate	10.37	10.88	10.40	10.47	12.60
England and Wales	11.5	11.7	11.6	11.5	12.0



CAUSE OF DEATH	M.	F.	TOTAL
ALL CAUSES	172	179	351
1. Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	4	1	5
2. Other forms of tuberculosis	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm of stomach	7	4	11
11. Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus	11	-	11
12. Malignant neoplasm of breast	-	10	10
13. Malignant neoplasm of uterus	-	3	3
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	15	15	30
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
16. Diabetes	-	3	3
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system	21	30	51
18. Coronary disease and angina	19	20	39
19. Hypertension with heart disease	6	4	10
20. Other heart disease	15	29	44
21. Other circulatory disease	15	3	18
22. Influenza	3	12	15
23. Pneumonia	6	4	10
24. Bronchitis	12	4	16
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	3	1	4
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	-	4
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	-	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-	3
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	2	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	18	23	41
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	1	5
34. All other accidents	2	6	8
35. Suicide	-	3	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-

As will be seen from the foregoing table, the principal causes of death were as follows: -

Heart disease	93
Cancer	65
Vascular lesions of nervous system	51
Pneumonia and bronchitis	26
Other diseases of circulatory system	18

# Deaths. Age Groups 1961

<u>Age</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 1 year	4	6	10
1 - 2 years	2	1	3
3 - 4 "	-	-	-
5 - 9 "	-	-	-
10 - 14 "	-	2	2
15 - 19 "	2	2	4
20 - 24 "	-	-	-
25 - 34 "	2	1	3
35 - 44 "	3	6	9
45 - 54	23	9	32
55 - 59	15	12	27
60 - 64 "	20	12	32
65 - 69 "	19	17	36
70 - 74 "	26	25	51
75 - 79 "	21	22	43
80 - 84 "	22	29	51
85 and over	13	35	48
	172	179	351

## Cancer Mortality

The number of deaths of Bridgwater residents from cancer was 65 (males 33, females 32), as compared with 50 in 1960. They constituted 18.5% of the total deaths during the year.

The following table shows the localisation of the disease in the 65 cases:-

Localisation	Number of deaths			
	Male	Female	Total	1960
Stomach	7	4	11	2
Lungs	11	-	11	7
Breast	-	10	10	2
Uterus	-	3	3	5
Other and unspecified organs	15	15	30	34
Total	33	32	65	50

The ages at which deaths from lung cancer occurred during the last five years is detailed in the following table:-

Year	Under 15	15/24	25/34	35/44	45/54	55/64	Over 65	Total
1957	-	-	-	-	2	5	4	11
1958	-	-	-	-	-	7	6	13
1959	-	-	-	-	2	1	5	8
1960	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	7
1961	-	-	-	-	3	3	5	11

### Infantile Mortality

10 infants under one year of age died during the year. This gave an infantile mortality rate of 20.83, while the corresponding rate for England and Wales was 21.4.

There were 3 deaths of infants during the first four weeks of life, as compared with 7 during the previous year.

The following table shows the causes of the infant deaths in detail:-

Cause of death	Under 1 week	1 - 4 weeks	1 - 6 months	6 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Congenital malformations			1	1	2
Pneumonia			1	1	2
Prematurity	2				2
Asphyxia due to inhalation of stomach contents			2		2
Pneumococcal meningitis			1		1
Other causes	1				1
Total	3		5	2	10

### Deaths from Heart Disease

Of the 351 deaths, heart disease caused roughly 1 in every 4 (males 40, females 53). It represented 25.5% of the total deaths from all causes and was equivalent to a death rate of 3.6 per 1,000 of the population.

### Influenza and Pneumonia Mortality

There were 25 deaths from these diseases, as against 9 in 1960. The mortality rate per 1,000 of the population was 0.98

## Suicide

There were three deaths from suicide during 1961, as compared with 2 in 1960.

## Inquests

27 inquests were held by the Coroner in the Borough during the year. Of these 13 were upon residents of the town.

<u>Cause of death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Road accidents	2	-	2
Accidents in the home	1	4	5
Suicide	-	3	3
Misadventure	-	1	1
Asphyxia	-	1	1
Natural causes	1	-	1
Total	4	9	13

## Population

The estimated population of the Borough as at June 1961 was 25,580 which was the same as in the previous year. The natural increase in population, that is the excess of births over deaths, was 129, and therefore 129 emigrated from the town during the year. That this reversed the trend of the previous nine years is shown in the following table:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population increase</u>	<u>Natural increase</u>	<u>Change due to emigration or immigration</u>
1950	270	119	+ 151
1951	450	112	- 562
1952	1,160	92	+ 1,068
1953	200	148	+ 2
1954	160	127	+ 33
1955	200	101	+ 99
1956	240	116	+ 124
1957	340	115	+ 225
1958	410	93	+ 317
1959	400	147	+ 253
1960	290	166	+ 124
1961	nil	129	- 129

## GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

### Laboratory Facilities

Pathological specimens are sent to the laboratory at Musgrove Park Hospital, which forms part of the Public Health Laboratory Service. Results of investigations are available with the minimum of delay and there is good liaison between the laboratory personnel and the field workers in the Public Health Department.

Examinations carried out during the year include:-

War 1 samples	50
Ice cream samples	78
Faeces etc.	65

### Hospitals

In previous reports attention has been drawn to the inadequate provision of hospital facilities in Bridgwater, and joint representation has been made by the Borough and Rural District Councils to the South West Regional Hospital Board to secure improvement. However, at the time of writing this report the Ministry of Health Plan for the Hospital Services has been published and the proposals for hospital services in Bridgwater are well known to all interested persons. It is to be hoped that the further joint representations of the Councils and those of other local groups and individuals will convince the Ministry of Health and the Regional Hospital Board that radical revision of the Hospital Plan, in so far as it concerns Bridgwater, is not only desirable but essential.

Hospitals in the area are administered by the South Western Regional Hospital Board, through the Bridgwater Area Management Committee.

The hospitals are:-

Bridgwater General Hospital	72 beds
Mary Stanley Nursing Home	31 beds
Northgate Lodge	60 beds

Cases of infectious diseases needing hospital treatment, or isolation, are admitted to Taunton Isolation Hospital.

### Ante-Natal Clinics

Doctors' ante-natal clinics are held three times a week at the Mary Stanley Nursing Home and are staffed by general practitioners who are interested in maternity work. The clinics help to cement the relationship between patient, midwife and doctor and are particularly valuable.

The usual clinics held at the Health Centre on the first Monday and the third Wednesday of the month for taking blood samples from expectant mothers for determination of Rhesus Factor, blood grouping, etc. are continued as heretofore. During 1961 777 persons attended.

### Relaxation Classes

These classes are attended by about 25 expectant mothers at a time, and are held fortnightly at the Health Centre. Following short talks on "Parentcraft" by Doctor, Health Visitor or Midwife, relaxation instruction is given by a physiotherapist. These classes have become very popular and afternoon sessions have now been introduced in addition to the evening sessions.

### Mothers' Club

This club, which meets at the Health Centre, has a membership of over 60 mothers. The average attendance at each weekly meeting is 35 - 40. After listening to a speaker or seeing an educational film, the mothers enjoy a social evening together. The club has proved most popular with the mothers for whom it has been a most welcome change from domestic chores.



The mothers also help the Infant Welfare Clinic by taking charge of the play room during infant welfare sessions.

#### Infant Welfare Clinics.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held as follows:-

The Health Centre,  
Mount Street.

Tuesday, 2.00 to 4.30 p. m.  
Friday, 2.00 to 4.00 p. m.

The Community Centre,  
Bath Road Estate.

Thursday, 2.00 to 4.00 p. m.

Greenfields,  
Hamp Estate.

2nd and 4th Tuesday in  
months, 2.00 to 4.00 p. m.

Once again I must draw attention to the unsuitability of the existing Community Centre at Bath Road Estate, both for Infant Welfare Clinic purposes and for general use in connection with community activities. It is therefore to be hoped that the measures which the Council now propose to meet this need will be pursued with vigour.

#### Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics.

The Health Centre,  
Mount Street

Friday, 11.00 a. m.

The Community Centre,  
Bath Road Estate.

A special clinic is now held on the  
first Friday in each month at 10.00 a. m.

Greenfields,  
Hamp Estate

2nd and 4th Tuesday in month  
2.00 to 4.00 p. m.

#### Vaccination against Smallpox .

The Health Centre,  
Mount Street.

Friday, by appointment.

#### Polio Immunisation Clinics.

The Health Centre,  
Mount Street.

The first Monday in each month  
from 6.30 to 7.00 p. m.  
Thursday, 4.00 to 4.30 p. m.  
Friday, 11.00 a. m. (for babies)

The Community Centre,  
Bath Road Estate.

The first Friday in each month  
at 10.00 a. m.

### School Clinic

A school medical officer attends a school clinic each Monday morning from 10.00 a.m. at the Health Centre, Mount Street, and is available to advise parents on any health matters concerning their children. Many parents avail themselves of this additional opportunity to discuss their children's health with the school doctor.

School nurses attend minor ailments clinics at the Health Centre, from 9.00 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Minor ailment clinics are also held at Hamp Junior School on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and Bath Road Junior School on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9.30 a.m. This arrangement of holding nurses' clinics in the more distant schools has much to commend it when adequate facilities are available.

Other clinics held at the Health Centre, Mount Street include:-

Chest Clinic	Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday a.m.
Orthopaedic Clinic	Monday a.m.
Child Guidance Clinic	Tuesday a.m.
Breathing Exercises Clinic	Wednesday p.m.
Artificial Sunlight Clinic	Tuesday and Friday p.m.

### Friarn Street Day Nursery

This nursery, administered by the County Council, is available for children aged 6 months to 5 years. A list of priorities has been drawn up by the Council and a local admission committee decides which children should be admitted. Admission is granted mainly on grounds of economic difficulty or unsatisfactory housing conditions. Accommodation is available for 25 children. The average daily attendance during 1961 was 20 children.

Extension of the Internal Relief Road will involve demolition of the nursery, but the County Council have approved the building of a new nursery at Albert Street and work will be commenced in time for the new building to be well advanced by the end of the year.

### Ambulance Service

An Ambulance and Hospital Car Service is provided by the County Council through the agency of Voluntary Organisations. The local headquarters is at 7, West Street, Bridgwater. Ambulances are controlled by radio communication from a central control at Taunton and a satisfactory service is provided. Redevelopment of the West Street area will involve the demolition of the present ambulance station. It is intended that a new ambulance station and a new day nursery will be built at the same time and on adjoining sites. It is hoped therefore that the new station will be operational early in the new year.

### Home Help Service

This service is provided by the County Council, with local administration by the Home Help Organiser, with an office at the Health Centre, Mount Street.

Once again the Home Helps have proved of very considerable value and much assistance was given to needy cases. During the year 236 cases received assistance.

these included the following types of cases:-

Maternity	21
Old age and infirmity	139
Tuberculosis	4
Chronic sick	48
Post operation	5
Emergency illness	14
Other cases	5

In many cases assisted, the patient or other members of the family would have been unable to remain at home, were it not for the Home Help Service.

In addition to the normal service, arrangements have been made for women to sit up with seriously ill cases where alternative arrangements cannot be made.

The number of Home Helps at 31.12.61 was as follows:-

Full time	20
Part time	23

#### National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47.

A number of cases were assisted through informal action, and in no case was it necessary for the Council to take statutory action to secure the admission of an old person to suitable accommodation.

#### Borough Mortuary

49 post mortem examinations were carried out at the Borough mortuary during 1961. This compares with 45 in the previous year.

Proposed extension of the Clare Street car park will involve demolition of the existing mortuary. The present building has served its purpose but it falls short of modern standards and alteration and renovation would prove expensive. Its passing will not therefore be regretted. The possibility of the Local Authorities and the Hospital Authorities sharing a mortuary at Bridgwater General Hospital is being investigated. This would facilitate the provision of a mortuary more in keeping with present day standards without throwing an undue burden on local resources.

#### Welfare of Old People .

The various organisations to which reference was made in previous reports have continued to play an important part in contributing to the welfare of old people. The inclusion of chiropody treatment as part of the National Health Service has helped to fill a great need and has been much appreciated by the old people. The Borough of Bridgwater Association for the Welfare of Old People have for some years operated a chiropody scheme for old people and the County Council now help considerably in relieving the Association of the financial burden of operating their scheme. Experience may show however that the continuation of two schemes for providing chiropody service in the Borough are unnecessary and the Association for the Welfare of Old People may consider that the time has come when they should direct their activities through some other channel to be of greatest assistance to old people.



PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the cases of notifiable diseases that occurred in the Borough during 1961. The table is drawn up after making the necessary corrections in diagnosis by either the practitioners or the Medical Officers at the Isolation Hospitals.

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-64	Age unknown	Total	Admitted to Hospital
Measles	11	50	63	77	78	311	7	4				10		611	
Scarlet fever				1		2		1						4	1
Puerperal pyrexia								3	3					6	1
Meningococcal infection	1													1	1
Dysentery							1							1	
Whooping cough	4	2	2	7	3	10	2			1			1	32	
Pneumonia	2	1				1				1		2		7	
Erysipelas										1		2		3	
Food Poisoning			3	2	4	3	10	3	2	1	2	3		33	
Acute Encephalitis	1													1	1
TOTAL	19	53	68	87	85	327	20	11	5	4	2	7	11	699	4

During the previous year 73 cases of notifiable infectious diseases were notified.

### Acute Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis)

No cases were notified during the year.

### Poliomyelitis Vaccination

During the year the number of injections given to complete a course of immunisation for children up to the age of twelve years was increased to four.

The following table shows the number of persons who received a course of primary vaccination (two injections) and number of persons who received third and fourth (reinforcing) injections during the year 1961.

Primary Courses				Number of persons (all groups) who received a third (re-inforcing) injection	Number of children of 5 yrs. but under 12 yrs. who received a 4th re-inforcing injection
Children born 1943-61	Young persons born 1933-42	Persons under 40 yrs. of age	Persons over 40 yrs. in Priority Groups		
586	123	313	16	1,011	2,275

At the time of writing this report live attenuated oral vaccine has been made available for polio immunisation and in time it will completely supersede the killed vaccine previously given by injection. The oral vaccine is given on a lump of sugar for adults or in syrup for infants and three doses at an interval of one month are given to complete a normal course of immunisation. When first introduced, the Ministry of Health advised that all persons in a household who were not fully protected by injections of Salk vaccine should receive oral vaccine at the same time as any one individual from the household received it. In practice this recommendation was unduly restricting and it has now been withdrawn. Free use is now made of oral vaccine which is well liked by parents and which helps to reduce the number of injections to which young children are subjected.

### Measles

611 cases of measles were notified during the year

### Scarlet Fever

4 cases were notified.

### Tuberculosis

14 new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified in 1961, as compared with 12 in 1960. One new case of non-respiratory tuberculosis was notified.

	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-respiratory</u>
Number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at 31.12.61	150	14
Number of new cases during the year	14	1
Number of deaths during the year	4	1

The following table shows the sex and age groups of cases notified during the year:-

Age	Under 5	5/14	15/24	25/44	45/64	65 & Over	Age unknown	Total
Male	1	-	3	1	3	1	1	10
Female	-	-	2	1	1	-	1	5

#### B. C. G Vaccination

In order to raise the immunity to tuberculosis of school leavers, vaccination with B. C. G. vaccine was offered to all children between the ages of 13 and 14 years, attending schools in the Mid-Somerset Divisional Area. 522 accepted the offer and received a preliminary skin test, the "Heaf Test", to determine whether they had in fact already experienced some infection with tuberculosis. 436 of these gave a negative test and were vaccinated with the B. C. G. vaccine.

#### Food Poisoning

33 cases were notified and all occurred as part of one outbreak of food poisoning in which some 80 were affected. The following is a brief account of the outbreak which was written at the time:-

"On Wednesday, 17th May, notification was received from medical practitioners that cases of acute enteritis were occurring in increasing numbers more or less in one particular part of Bridgwater. Preliminary investigation suggested that the likely vehicle of infection was a milk supply. This milk was retailed in the Borough, but was supplied from a dairy in the Rural District, situated at the farm where the milk was produced. Having the same Medical Officer of Health for both areas it was then a simple matter to initiate investigation at the farm at the same time as full investigation was proceeding in the Borough. Reports received from the Chief Public Health Inspectors strengthened the impressions already gained and it was soon considered that on epidemiological grounds there was sufficient evidence to justify prohibiting the sale of unpasteurised milk from the herd. Appropriate action under Section 20 of the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959 was therefore taken on 18th May. Bacteriological tests undertaken at the same time later identified the causative organism from most of the notified cases, and also isolated the same organism from animals of the herd which were known to be ill. The organism was also isolated from the milk of a cow known to be ill, but whose milk had been thrown to waste and not put into supply. Indeed as far as could be ascertained the milk of all animals suspected of illness had been excluded from the milk supply.

The ending of this outbreak was even more dramatic than its commencement and no new infections whatever were notified when the sale of milk in an untreated state was prohibited".

### Diphtheria

No cases of diphtheria were notified. During the year 447 children under the age of 5 years and 68 children between the ages of 5 - 15 years were immunised against diphtheria, giving a total of 515.

### Vaccination against Smallpox

The number of primary vaccinations against smallpox showed an increase as compared with the previous year.

Persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) in 1961

Under 1		1		2 to 4		5 to 14		15 or over		Totals	
P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R
147	-	7	-	13	-	10	8	4	3	181	11

P = Primary vaccination

R = Revaccination

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Refuse disposal is by Controlled Tipping and use is made of many claypits surrounding the town, as tipping sites. The tip at present in use is situated unduly close to a residential area, and the strictest control over tipping technique is essential if nuisance is to be avoided.

### Disinfection

The disinfection centre is working satisfactorily and 13 disinfections were carried out during the year.

### Water Supplies

Regular bacteriological examination of existing supplies have been made of both the raw water and the water going into supply.

Results were as follows:-

#### Ashford Reservoir

Untreated water. Five samples were examined, all of which showed evidence of contamination.

Water after treatment. 14 samples were examined and 12 gave excellent results.

#### Durleigh Reservoir

Untreated water. Five samples were examined, all of which showed evidence of contamination.



Water after treatment. Twelve samples were examined. All gave excellent results.

Routine chemical analysis of the Durleigh and Ashford Supplies showed moderately hard waters containing some organic pollution. A detailed report of the Durleigh supply was as follows:-

#### Report of Chemical Analysis of Sample of Water

Received on 16th May, 1961.

Labelled: Raw Water. Durleigh Reservoir. Direct dipping.

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	<u>Parts per million</u>
Physical Characters	Slightly turbid, slight yellow colour
Reaction	Alkaline
pH	8.4
Free Carbon Dioxide	NIL
Total Solids	260.0
Total Alkalinity (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	160.0
Carbonate Hardness "	160.0
Non-carbonate " "	40.0
Total Hardness	200.0
Chloride (as Cl)	26.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (as N)	0.008
Albuminoid " "	0.34
Nitrate " "	0.6
Nitrite " "	0.012
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 27° C.	1.7
Sediment	Green and brown algae, other amorphous vegetable matter.

This is a moderately hard alkaline water, containing some organic pollution.

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#### Swimming Baths

Treatment of the water in the swimming baths is regularly supervised. Modern plant enables the water to be turned over every six hours and at the same time to be filtered and purified. Bacteriological examination of the water was carried out on 13 occasions and of these 12 reached the standard of purity required for domestic drinking water supplies.

The provision of a third swimming bath at the Lido has done much to relieve overcrowding of the other baths and particularly the congestion at the shallow ends of the existing bath.

#### Sewage Disposal

The Council, in conjunction with Messrs. British Cellophane Ltd. have undertaken a scheme to improve conditions at the outfall of the Council's sewer taking acid effluent from the Cellophane factory. The scheme provides for the discharge of effluent into the River Parrett below low water level and should therefore help considerably to reduce or eliminate the unpleasant smells which so frequently arise from the existing discharge which is at a level well above low water mark.

Work on renewing the Eastover trunk sewer continued slowly during the year.

## Housing

Number of permanent dwellings in Borough 7,815

Number of permanent dwellings owned by  
Local Authority 3,203

Number of houses demolished or closed during  
the year as a result of formal or informal  
action. 47

	Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection	
	For Slum Clearance	For other purposes	For Slum Clearance	For other purposes
Local Authority	31	28	-	30
Private Enterprise	-	66	-	44

In addition to action taken in respect of Slum Clearance, steps have also been taken to render fit houses which can be made fit at reasonable cost. This is a most important measure in maintaining a reasonable standard of housing by delaying houses from getting into such a state that representation under Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957, is necessary. 43 such houses were made fit during the year.

Advantage has also been taken of Improvement Grants made under the Housing Act, 1949 - 54, but it has been on a small scale. 25 applications in respect of 25 dwellings were received.

# FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

The following particulars indicate the action taken under Part I of the Factories Act, 1937.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	11	5	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	146	93	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	12	19	-	-
Total	169	117	-	-

	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H. M. Insp.	By H. M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	4	5			
Overcrowding (S. 2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary conveniences (S. 7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1		1	
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	14		1	
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)					
Total	6	20		2	

	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out- workers in August list required by Sec. 110(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prose- cutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un- wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing) Making etc. apparel ) Cleaning and ) Washing	115					

#### STAFF EXAMINATIONS

Medical examinations carried out by the Department in connection with new appointments to the Council's staff, and in connection with the Superannuation Scheme and the Workmen's Sickness Benefit Regulations, were as follows :-

<u>Department</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Town Clerk	3	1	4
Borough Engineer	19	1	20
Borough Architect	11	-	11
Borough Treasurer	1	1	2
Housing	1	4	5
Health	-	-	-
	35	7	42



To:-

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Bridgwater.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1961.

Housing

During the year numerous complaints were received and dealt with under the Public Health or Housing Acts.

There has been a considerable decrease in the number of complaints received from people living in unsatisfactory housing conditions and this can be credited to the work carried out in the demolition of insanitary houses during the past five years. During that period 234 houses have been demolished and 11 houses closed.

86 preliminary notices and 2 statutory notices were served. In no case was it necessary to take legal proceedings.

62 houses were inspected for the purpose of having defects remedied whilst 10 houses were systematically inspected under the Housing Regulations. Further properties in the West Street Redevelopment Area were purchased for the purpose of demolition.

During the year 47 houses were demolished or closed as the result of formal or informal action.

The inspection of accommodation occupied by applicants on the Housing Waiting List still entails a considerable amount of work.

The schedule at the end of the report gives the amount of repair work carried out under notice to existing houses.

The number of houses found to be verminous was 10, an increase on the number for 1960 but the same figure as for 1959.

Only one case of overcrowding was found during the year.

Rent Act, 1957

There have been no applications for Certificates of Disrepair during the year.

The following table gives the amount of work carried out under the Act since it came into force.

No. of applications received	60
No. of houses inspected	60
Form J's sent to Owners	60
Form K's received from Owners	34
Repairs completed	51

Repairs in hand	3
Houses demolished	3
Applications withdrawn = Tenants purchased house	3
Certificates of Disrepair issued	25
Certificates of Disrepair revoked	17

#### Infectious Diseases

Enquiries are made in cases of notifiable disease and disinfection is carried out free of cost. In other cases a charge is made. The disinfecting plant at Market Street is functioning satisfactorily.

#### Food

The inspection of food and the premises in which it is prepared for sale or sold is one of the most important duties of the Department. The coming into force of the Food Hygiene Regulations has increased this work and a great deal of time has been spent in inspecting premises, advising shopkeepers on improvements required, serving notices and supervising the alterations.

(i) The number of food premises, other than stalls, in the Borough is 260, made up as follows:-

Grocers (including wholesalers)	78
Confectioners (Sweetmeats)	25
Bakers	13
Licensed Premises	63
Greengrocers (including wholesalers)	11
Fishmongers	4
Fried Fish Shops	7
Restaurants, Unlicensed Hotels, & Kiosks	17
Canteens	12
Cooked Meats etc.	4
Butchers	26
Stalls (including St. Matthews Fair)	81

(ii) The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 is 114.

Ice Cream Premises	89
Potted Pressed, Pickled and Preserved Foods	25
The number of firms retailing milk in the Borough is	17

All milk sold in the Borough is either Pasteurised, Sterilised or Tuberculin Tested

(iii) The number of inspections of registered food premises is given in the summary at the end of the report.

(iv) In connection with the visits to food premises the following foods were condemned.

Beef	2 cwt. 14½ lbs.
Bacon	53 lbs.
Wet Fish	6 lbs.
Canned Fish	98 Tins
Canned Meat	287 Tins
Canned Fruit	1, 321 Tins

Canned Vegetables	403 Tins
Canned Soup	28 Tins
Canned Milk	77 Tins
Canned Jam	6 Tins
Game	8 Pheasants
Apricot Pulp	100 cwt. 50½lbs
Other Foods	4 cwt. 9 lbs.

The food condemned was disposed of at the Corporation Refuse Tip.

(v) No special examination of a stock or consignment of food has been necessary.

(vi) Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947 - 1952

The number of premises registered for the manufacture or sale of ice-cream is as follows:-

Registered for manufacture and sale	0
Registered for sale	89

No ice-cream is now manufactured in the Borough and practically the whole of the icecream retailed is wrapped.

78 samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year and these were graded as follows:-

Grade 1	70
" 2	8
" 3	-
" 4	-

These results are good, but not quite so satisfactory as those obtained last year, when only two samples were not placed in Grade 1.

(vii) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

A great deal more work has been carried out under the above Regulations and most premises now comply with the standard of hygiene prescribed. Attention was given to the smaller type of shop. The table in the Summary at the end of the report gives details of the work accomplished. No prosecutions were taken during the year.

### Meat Inspection

All slaughtering in the Borough is now concentrated at the Cattle Market Slaughterhouse. This has enabled the work of meat inspection to be carried out under very much better conditions. The slaughterhouse was extended during the year with a consequent large increase in the amount of killing. The total number of animals killed and inspected rose from 9,833 in 1960 to 34,128 in 1961. One hundred per cent inspection is maintained necessitating a considerable amount of duty in evenings and at week-ends.

The following table gives details of the carcasses inspected, the weight of meat condemned and the causes of condemnation.

Carcases Inspected

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number Killed	1,013	155	10,060	15,827	7,073 +	34,128
Number Examined	1,013	155	10,060	15,827	7,073	34,128

+ includes 99 sows and 17 boars

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses	Total
<u>All diseases except T. B. &amp; Cysticerci</u>							
Whole Carcases condemned	3	9	41	39	14	-	106
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	86	64	29	469	591	-	1,239
% of the No. inspected affected with diseases other than T. B. or cysticerci	8.7	47.1	0.7	3.2	8.6	-	3.94
<u>T. B. only</u>							
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	1	-	-	92	-	94
% of the No. inspected affected with T. B.	0.1	0.6	-	-	1.3	-	0.28
<u>Cysticercosis</u>							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for</u>							
(a) Tuberculosis	15	135	-	-	1,166	-	1,316
(b) Cysticercosis	169	-	-	-	-	-	169
(c) Other	2,397	6,932	2,406	2,993	4,427	-	19,155
Total (in lbs.) condemned	2,581	7,067	2,406	2,993	5,593	-	20,640

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Animals slaughtered for emergency reasons	16	43	33	137	71	300



Conditions Rendering Carcase Meat and Organs Unfit for Human Consumption

Diseases	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Abscesses	250	23	38	15	83
Actinobacillosis	64	-	-	-	-
Actinomycosis	214	-	-	-	-
Arthritis	-	-	-	-	12
Ascariasis (Milk Spots)	-	-	-	-	591
Bruising	162	2, 129(1)	26	229(4)	247
Cirrhosis	47	19	4	15	112
Congestion	-	-	6	9	-
Contamination	-	-	-	-	194
C. Bovis	169	-	-	-	-
C. Ovis	-	-	-	7	-
C. Tenuicollis	-	-	-	53	-
Decomposition	62	80	50(1)	2	25
Echinococcus Cysts	-	-	-	45	-
Emaciation (Pathological)	-	999(3)	179(1)	723(19)	33(1)
Fasciolosis	383	341	-	207	-
Fatty Change	-	23	-	29	-
Fever (Pyrexia)	484(1)	-	275(6)	147(2)	383(3)
Gangrene	15	630(1)	3	-	-
Gangrenous Pneumonia	-	-	84(1)	-	-
Hydronephrosis	-	-	-	-	8
Immaturity	-	-	115(5)	-	-
Inflammatory Conditions including Chronic Adhesions	-	-	9	31	245
Jaundice	-	-	-	43(1)	141(1)
Mastitis, localised	-	157	-	10	55
Mastitis, acute septic	-	-	-	60(1)	-
Melanosis	-	-	5	1	4
Metritis, acute septic	-	-	-	65(1)	-
Moribund	-	-	622(13)	491(7)	464(3)
Nephritis	-	-	-	1	13
Oedema	-	1, 538(3)	346(4)	80(2)	-
Parasitical Conditions	-	16	-	463	56
Pericarditis, simple	4	-	2	5	32
Pericarditis, acute septic	-	-	-	-	79(1)
Peritonitis, acute septic	-	-	-	-	417(2)
Pleurisy	-	-	-	-	81
Pleurisy, acute septic	-	-	67(1)	-	-
Pneumonia	68	43	6	13	828
Pneumonia, acute septic	-	-	-	82(1)	44(1)
Pyæmia, including Joint-ill	-	-	206(5)	67(1)	169(2)
Septicæmia	-	-	147(3)	-	-
Sepsis	-	40	11	-	12
Strongylosis	-	-	-	86	-
Swine Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	36
Telangyiectasis	79	279	-	-	-
Tetanus	-	-	205(1)	-	-

Disease	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Toxaemia	325(1)	472(1)	-	-	-
Tuberculosis	15	135	-	-	1,166(1)
Tumours	240(1)	143	-	14	-
Urticaria	-	-	-	-	3

(Weight in lbs.)

Total weight of meat and offals condemned: - 9 Tons, 4 cwts. and 12 lbs.

The figures in brackets indicate the number of cases where the whole of the carcasses and their organs were condemned.

Once again the general quality of the meat inspected was exceptionally good and the great majority of carcase rejections were from animals slaughtered for emergency reasons.

### Swimming Baths

Samples of the water in the baths at the Broadway Lido were sent for bacteriological examination regularly throughout the season. Thirteen samples were examined and all but one were satisfactory.

### Caravans

There are 3 licensed caravan sites in the Borough. In addition the Corporation has developed a Municipal Caravan Site at Colley Lane.

### Rats and Mice Destruction

Two fully trained Rodent Operators are employed to carry out the destruction of rats and mice. The sewers were treated half-yearly and the refuse tip on 2 occasions. The number of complaints received of rat and mouse infestation was 345. The following table sets out details of the work carried out during the year.

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	Business & Industrial Premises	Total
1. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1961 as a result of					
(a) Notification	(a) 15	165	1	33	214
(b) Survey or otherwise	(b) 23	4,296	15	258	4,592
2. Total inspections carried out including re-inspection	61	4,860	21	387	5,329
3. Number of properties inspected (see Sec. 1) which were found to be infested with rats	Major 6 Minor 13	-  196	-  5	-  31	6  245
4. Number of properties inspected (see Section 1) which were found to be infested with mice	Major - Minor 2	2  81	-  -	5  21	7  104
5. Number of properties treated by Local Authority (see Secs. 3 & 4)	21	279	1	57	358

### Staff

There have been no staff changes during the year.



## Summary

### Inspections made during the year

#### General Sanitation

Water Supply	62
Drainage	1, 140
Stable and Piggeries	8
Factories	57
Outworkers	185
Rodent Control	207
Shops	541
Caravan Sites	45
Swimming Baths	10
Public Conveniences	5
Atmospheric Pollution	96
Heating Appliances	14
Pet Shops	6
Licensed Premises	71
Noise Nuisances	33
Miscellaneous	512

#### Housing

Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	62
Visits paid to the above houses	264
Houses inspected under the Housing Acts	10
Visits paid to the above houses	66
Houses inspected under the Rent Act	1
Visits paid under the Rent Act	17
Houses inspected during Housing Survey	52
Houses inspected in connection with overcrowding	1
Visits paid to the above houses	1
Verminous premises inspected	10
Visits paid to the above premises	17
Miscellaneous	319

#### Infectious Diseases

Inquiries in cases of Infectious Diseases	32
Visits re disinfection	18
Miscellaneous	10

#### Meat and Food Inspection

Visits to Slaughterhouses	666
Visits to Shops and Stalls	18
Visits to Butchers	88
Visits to Confectioners	37
Visits to Fishmongers and Poulterers	24
Visits to Grocers	223

Visits to Greengrocers and Fruiterers	21
Visits to Bakers and Confectioners	15
Visits to Fried Fish Shops	17
Visits to Dairies and Milk Distributors	17
Visits to Ice-Cream Premises	118
Visits for Ice-Cream Samples	78
Visits to Restaurants and Catering Establishments	49
Visits to Food Preparing Premises	32
Visits to Licensed Premises	89
Visits to Street Vendors	9
Visits to Market Stalls	196
Miscellaneous	71

### Explosives

Visits in connection with Explosives	69
Visits in connection with Petroleum Spirit	59

### Work Done

#### Public Health and Housing

Choked drains and sewers cleared	31
Drain relaid	1
Drains or sewers repaired	13
Inspection chambers provided or repaired	6
Defective ceilings repaired	13
Defective chimneys repaired	3
Defective doors repaired	8
Defective eavesgutters and downpipes repaired	26
Defective firegrates and ranges repaired	2
Defective floors repaired	4
Defective flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	5
Defective wall plastering repaired	18
Defective roofs repaired	19
Defective scullery troughs repaired or renewed	1
Defective scullery wastepipes repaired	1
Defective staircases repaired	1
Defective walls repaired	10
Defective water closets repaired or renewed	6
Defective windows repaired or renewed	22
Defective yard paving	5
Dampness remedied	10
Flushing cisterns provided	2
Handrails provided	1
Sashcords renewed	25
Smoke nuisances abated	3
Verminous premises cleansed	3
Number of disinfestations from rats or mice	477
Accumulations removed	5
External painting renewed (Rent Act)	2
Dangerous buildings repaired	2
Other nuisances abated	4

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Protection against contamination provided	2
<u>Washing - Food and Equipment</u>	
Sinks provided or renewed	5
Cold water supply provided	5
Hot water supply provided	7
Clean cloths provided	15
Bowls provided in lieu of sinks	8
<u>Washing - Hands</u>	
Washbasins provided or renewed	6
Cold water supply provided	6
Hot water supply provided	7
Towels provided	12
Nailbrushes provided	15
<u>W. C. Compartments</u>	
Artificial lighting provided	2
Ventilation provided	1
Notice to wash hands provided	12
Decorated	5
W. C. pans renewed	1
W. C. compartments cleansed	3
<u>Food Rooms</u>	
Walls repaired	12
Walls cleansed	15
Floors repaired	3
Ceilings repaired	7
Ceilings cleansed	12
S. T. Bins provided	8
Use of Detergents commenced	13
First Aid Kit provided	14
Impervious surfaces provided	3
Clothing accommodation provided	3
Drainage re-laid	1
Dustbins cleansed	1

Public Health Act, Sec. 89

Urinals cleansed and re-decorated	5
W. C. compartments cleansed and re-decorated	7
Washbasins provided in public W. C.'s	2
L. V. S. provided	1
Screening to W. C. compartment provided	2

Factories Acts

Artificial lighting provided to W. C. 's	8
Sanitary conveniences cleansed	7
Sanitary conveniences provided	2
Sanitary conveniences repaired	11
Intervening ventilated space provided	4
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	2

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. K. LEAN,

Chief Public Health Inspector.



